

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: CENTER UNITY: TWO COMPETING VIEWS

REF: MADRID 2898

1. MADRID'S DIARIO 16 PRESENTED RECELLY IN BRIEF SIDE BY
SIDE ARTICLES THE CONTRASTING VIEWS ON CD UNITY OF JOSE MARIA
GIL ROBLES, JR. (FDC AND CD TEAM) AND FERNANDO ALVAREZ DE
MIRANDA (PDC AND CENTRO DEMOCRATICO). ALTHOUGH BOTH ARTICLES
ARE REITERATIONS OF READY WELL KNOWN POSITONS. THEIR HIGH
LIGHTS ARE SUMMARIZED HERE AS SHORT HAND REMINDERS OF WHAT
CONTINUES, AT WRITING TO KEEP THESE TWO CD GROUPS APART AND
AS A RESULT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DIVISION OF THE POLITICAL
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CENTER.

2. GIL ROBLES AGAIN AFFIREMED THE PRIORITY HE PLACES ON CD UNITY
AS A CENTER OF GRAVITY FOR SHORT TERM CENTER COLLABORATION AND
AS A CORNERSTONE FOR NECESSARY LONGER TERM POLITICAL COHERENCE.
ACCORDING TO GIL ROBLES:
THE ELECTIONS MUST SERVE NOT ONLY TO ELECT A CONSITITUENT

PARLIAMENT BUT ALSO TO CONSOLIDATE THE LARGE DISCIPLINE
POLITICAL PARTIES WITH A CLEAR IDEOLOGY WITHOUT WHICH AN
AUTHENTIC EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY CANNOT FUNCTION.
THE CD "TEAM" BELIEVES THAT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THESE ELECTIONS
TO CLARIFY THE POLITICAL PANORAMA AND TO PRODUCE A CONJUNCTION
OF FORCES CAPABLE OF CARRYING OUT THE CONSTITUTENT TASK AND OF
GOVERNING EFFECTIVELY. THE VOTER, THE, MUST KNOW WHAT HE IS
VOTING FOR. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRACY IS A WELL KNOWN IDEOLOGY",
PARTIES WHICH ARE INSPIRED BY IT PRESENT CLEARLY DEFINED
SOLUTIONS WHICH ARE DISTINCT FROM THE REST.
IN OUR JUDGEMENT CENTRO DEMOCRATICO DOES NOT FULFILL ANY OF
THESE CONDITIONS. IT IS THE RESULT OF AN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE
BETWEEN DISPARATE GROUPS WITH A VIEW ONLY TO ELECTIONS. IT
LACKS A COMMON PROGRAM BASIC AGREEMENT ON GOVERNANCE, AND A
WELL DEFINED POLITICAL ORIENTATION. WHAT GUARANTEE IS THERE
THAT THESE GROUPS WOULD CONTINUE UNITED IN THE PARLIAMENT?
WHAT SORT OF STABILITY CAN A PARLIAMENT HAVE WHICH IS COMPOSED
LARGELY OF AN AMALGAM OF SMALL PARTIES?

4. IN CONTRAST TO GIL ROBLES VIEW THAT THE TUN UP TO ELECTIONS
IS CRITICAL TO THE LONG TERM TASK OF PARTY BUILDING ALVAREZ DE
MIRANDA CONSIDERS BROAD CENTRIST SUCCESS IN THE CONTEST AS THE
IMPORTANT IMMEDIATE TASK, WITH THE DEFINITION OF POLITICAL
OPTIONS TO COME LATER. WHERE GIL ROBLES SEES CENTRO DEMOCRATICO
AS A POLITICAL AMBIGUITY WITH OBVIOUS SHORT AND LONG TERM
LIABILITIES, ALVAREZ DE MIRANDA VIEWS IT AS THE NECESSARY
VEHICLE FOR CRITICALLY IMPORTANT CENTRIST SUCCESS IN THE
ELECTIONS. ACCORDING TO HIM.
IF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES CONTINUE TO DISCUSS THEIR IMPLANTATION
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AND ELECTIONAL IMPORTANCE IGNORING THE FACT THAT FIRST
COMES DEMOCRACY AND THEN THE PARTIES, WE WILL HAVE LOST THE
OPPORTUNITY PERHAPS DEFINITELY TO OVERCOME THE TRAUMA OF
THE CIVIL WAR AND 40 YEARS OF PATERNALISM
ONLY AS FAR AS A DEMOCRATIC COALITION BROAD ENOUGH TO
OVERCOME SPECIFIC DIFFERENCES CAN BE PRESENTED TO THE PEOPLE
WILL IT BE POSSIBLE TO MAKE POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY A REALITY.

4. FOLLOWING THE PUBLICATION OF THESE ARTICLES LEADERS
OF CENTRO DEMOCRATICO THE CD "TEAM" AND A NUMBER
OF OTHER SMALL CENTER GROUPING MET FRIDAY TO TRY
AGAIN TO HAMMER OUT SOME FORMULAR FOR CENTER ELECTORAL
COOPERATION. THREE PROPOSALS REPORTEDLY WERE MADE:
SATRUSTEGUI (LIBERAL MAVERICK); A "GLOBAL" CO
ALITION FOR BOTH THE UPPER AND LOWER HOUSE CONTESTS
BASED ON POLITICAL "FAMILIES" (I.E. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS.
SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND LIBERALS).
THE CD TEAM AN ELECTORAL COALITION TO INCLUDES
THE SOCIALISTS FOR THE UPPER HOUSE, WITH ELECTORAL

ACCORDS IN CERTAIN (UNSPECIFIED) PROVINCES IN THE
LOWER HOUSE CONTEST (REFTEL) AND
CENTRO DEMOCRATICO A "GLOBAL COALITION FOR BOTH
HOUSES MADE UP OF THOSE PARTIES PRESENT AT THE MEET
ING, BUT BASED ON EXISITING FORMATONS, SUCH AS THE
CNETRO RATHER THAN STRICKLY "FAMILY BY FAMILY".

5. NO DECISIONS WERE TAKEN AT FRIDAYS MEETING BUT
THE PARTICIPANTS AGREE TO STUDY THE PROPOSALS AND
THEIR ELECTORAL LISTS PROVINCE BY PROVINCE AND TO MEET
AGAIN THIS WEEK TO CONTUINE DISCUSSIONS. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC
(PSD) LEADER FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ TOLD EMBOFF TODAY
WITHOUT ELABORATION THAT PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE.
ONE OF SPAIN'S LEADING POLITICAL COMMENTATORS TOLD
EMBOFF THAT THE HANG UP IN THE CENTRO WITH RESPECT
TO RUIZ GIMENEZ'S "PRAGMATIC" APPROACH CAME FROM THE
LIBERAL ELEMENTS (GARRIGUES, CAMUNAS, LARROUQE) WITHIN
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THE COALITION.STABLER

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Message Attributes

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